

ZERO BEAT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Springfield, Mass.

ARRL Affiliated, 31st Year

November, 1979

HCRA MEETING

QRP DX

Friday, Nov. 2, 1979

Feeding Hills
Congregational Church

Corner Routes 57 and 187
Feeding Hills, Mass.

Ken Bolin, W1NG, will put on a slide presentation about DX'ing with both QRP rigs and linear amplifiers. Ken is 32 years old, Chairman of the ARRL advisory committee, an electrical engineer by profession, and has been an avid DXer for many of his 20 years in amateur radio. He has confirmed 324 countries and is sure to please both the novice and the expert DXer. His topics include inexpensive DX, QRP DX and how to dig them out of pileups.

The meeting will begin sharply at 8:00 PM.

ANNUAL AUCTION

The annual auction held by the Hampden County Radio Association was well attended, as usual, with well over 250 people crowding the hall to bid for the "goodies". Many of us proved once again that one hams junk is another hams treasure. Your editor was amazed, after making a prize buy, that the seller would exclaim, "you bought That?"

We are sure that more than one seller was equally surprised but such is the annual auction.

See you next year and bring your "goodies", we know a guy that may be interested.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Excellent Band

Fine Food

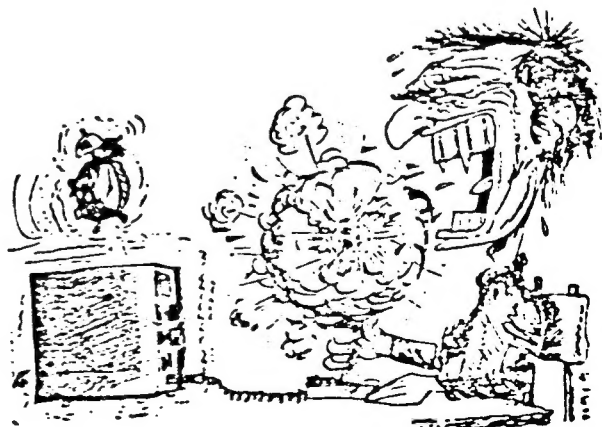
Door Prizes

Fun for All

The time for our second annual HCRA/MTARA gala christmas party is almost upon us. The party will be held Friday evening, December 7th at the Elk's Lodge in Holyoke. We have obtained the same band which did such a good job last year. The food will be of the same high quality and in greater quantity. The cocktail hour (dutch treat) will be from 6:30 to 7:30 PM followed by dinner, dancing and door prize drawings until 1:00 AM. Tickets may be obtained from any Hampden County or Mount Tom board member until November 29. No tickets will be sold after this date. The price of tickets is eight dollars a person. A map will be available with your ticket.

Invite friends and relatives to join you at this gala affair. Many non-hams attended last year and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Ron, WB1ETS



CQ, DX, CQ, DX!!!!!!!

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSN. INC.
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

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President's Corner

The recent emergency in the Connecticut area has pointed out the importance of not just the need for emergency communications per se. I'm speaking of the critical need of communication and co-operation between clubs or amateur groups that is vitally needed at times of emergencies. We cannot afford the luxury of individual amateur radio clubs or groups operating independently during these times. Duplication of effort, lack of efficiency, and improper or complete lack of dissemination of critical information are the results and it is the victims of the emergency that suffer. It is imperative that during times of crisis when we are called upon to make use of our skills and equipment to provide communications during emergencies we act in a smooth and efficient manner. This is impossible unless we remember that we are all amateur radio operators and must work together harmoniously in order to be effective when we are needed.

Larry,
WBL CJH

News From Other Clubs

MOUNT TOM AMATEUR REPEATER
ASSOCIATION

Heather, WBL ABF, President has announced the following MTARA meetings:

November 16, 1979

Ed Tilton, W1HOQ, How to interpret the Sun.

February 15, 1980

Rick Zwirko, K1HTV, Phase III Satellite (Oscar).

Meetings are held at 7:30 PM at the Western Mass Electric Building on Brush Hill Road in West Springfield. Heather assures us that everyone is welcome.

WELCOME

We welcome six new members to the Hampden County Radio Association -

Roger Poirier	K1WXU
Bob Mayo	K1SUD
Florence Estridge	
John Ragle	W1ZI
Fernand Nadeau	
David Johnson	KALCCL

We welcome you and hope that our association will be long and enjoyable here in the HCRA.

THANKS

Our thanks to Jack, Ethel, Jeff, Gent, Joe, and others who made Zero Beat a success this month.

WHO WILL TAKE NET CONTROL ?

This question is asked regularly on the Hampden County Monday night net, the MTARA Info Net on Wednesdays and certainly on many other nets throughout ham radio-land. The lack of response is very significant. Have we lost sight of what amateur radio is? Do we think we have a hobby like stamp collecting or flower gardening - something that is done completely for our own pleasure?

Amateur radio is being introduced to many emerging nations throughout the world whose language does not even include a word for hobby. Maybe, just maybe, it is time to review Part 97 of the FCC rules that state the basis and purpose of amateur radio, particularly Part 97.1:

"The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur radio service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international good will."

When we think about items (a), (c), and (d) above, we must ask ourselves if we would be capable of providing emergency communications. Technically, many of us have provided for emergency communications with our battery powered equipment.

However, would we be capable of using that sophisticated equipment if we were asked to be net control? If you were the only station that could come up in an emergency would you be able to handle an emergency net?

You may even say to yourself that such a situation is unlikely to occur in the United States with police and military communications abounding in every state but it CAN HAPPEN! WALORT, Ray, was the only source of communications at the Air National Guard facility located at Bradley International Airport when the tornado laid telephone and power lines and emergency generators to waste. Would you have been capable of being the net control station? Think about it the next time the NCS asks, "Who will take net control?"

73's

Paul, WALZKT

Net Info. *

Hampden County Radio Association
Info Net
Monday, 20:00 hrs local time,
28.650 mhz

Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn.
Info Net
Wednesdays, 19:30 hrs local time,
146.34/94 mhz

New England Novice Net (NENN)
A traffic and training net for those interested in learning to handle traffic (8-10 WPM)
Daily, 18:15 hrs local time,
3720 mhz

Empire Slow Speed Net (ESS)
Daily, 18:00 hrs local time,
3590 mhz

* Please let your editor know if you know of any additional nets that may be of interest to members.

How to achieve 25 WPM Painlessly (Almost)

The following ideas are what may appear to be relatively unorthodox methods to achieve code proficiency. They are not intended to be shortcuts and may not work for everyone. However, when all else fails, they may be of some reinforcement when used with some of the more accepted methods of achieving higher code speed.

Many hams (and prospective hams) regard code as a major stumbling block; whether to get a license, upgrade to a higher class license, or just to increase code speed. Morse code should be pursued as a challenge rather than a chore. Regardless of the method used, a positive attitude toward code proficiency must be maintained and it should be considered somewhat enjoyable.

The first method is based on my theory that there is no need to copy a transmission letter for letter during the course of a normal QSO (except for handling traffic). Just as a college student must learn to listen to a lecture and learn to take pertinent notes, the ham can do the same; copy the text in your head and make notations as necessary. ...which brings us to the new type of FCC code tests where questions are asked on a "typical" QSO.

Your first biggest fear is letting go of your pencil when it comes to copying. Like the first time on a bicycle, you know you'll learn how to do it but that first push off the curb and neither foot on the ground does nothing for the blood pressure. So, let's take a more relaxed approach to this method. Turn on your receiver and find someone who is sending just a little faster than you can receive. Impossible as it may seem, try to find someone with a good fist.

Put your pencil down, fold your hands on your shack desk, and put your head down and close your eyes. Don't go to sleep!! Listen as he sends. At first you'll only pick up a character here or there. Don't get discouraged - you won't be proficient in just one session. Gradually the characters will turn to words and somewhere down the line, you'll be able to copy the whole transmission. Now you're listening to a conversation - not scribbling feverishly to copy everything and trying to decipher it all as he sends HW? W1NY DE K1HAM K. When you can copy this way at the speed you wish to achieve, it shouldn't be much trouble at all to make notations on signal report, QTH, name, etc. The crux of this method is you only write down pertinent information leaving out words - such as ands, the's, here, etc.

For most of us, the goal is to pass the FCC test for the class license desired. When you take the test, just listen to the one minute practice tape instead of writing it down. It will allow you to get used to the pitch, speed, and not to be all tensed up when the test portion is sent. It may even psychologically help you to pass as you watch everybody writing like mad during the practice tape and being half "burned out" by the time the test portion is sent. The test is a simulated QSO and you only have to answer questions on what was sent - no longer the requirement for 1 minute solid copy out of 5 minutes sent. "ERGO" the previously described method. For example the test may be: I teach psychology at UNASS and live in Springfield, Mo. It may not make sense but copy what is sent. They may ask you what his profession is and your choices would be: psychology teacher, psychiatry teacher, philosophy teacher, philanthropy

(Cont'd. on page 5)

teacher. The underlined words are the pertinent words and should have been what you wrote.

"How do I know what to write down?" you ask. By now you should be able to copy a word or two behind what is sent; which brings us to my theory of not writing down what is not necessary.

If the above method offends you or you don't wish to put down your pencil, the following may help you to increase code speed. Try chasing DX. Not only will your code speed increase, but you'll learn to pick one signal out of a myriad of others. Maybe you'll even snag that exotic country that you didn't even know existed. DX QSOs are pretty much formatted. For example: W1CQF DE UD6HAM UR 579 579 QTH AZERBAIJEN AZERBAIJEN NAME VLAD VLAD HW? W1CQF DE UD6HAM K. Even though you know the format of the transmission, you really can't anticipate the actual contents of the text. You'll have each word sent twice. After a short while of operating, don't be surprised if you're working stations sending 20 to 25 WPM.

The above are what I call "learning by osmosis" i.e., you become proficient at what you enjoy. So.....relax a little and enjoy CW ...have conversations instead of exercises in writing letters and numbers on paper. Don't forget to practice your sending (not on the air). You're judged by your fist.

Good luck and QRQ.

Gent Lam
W1CQF

Zero Beat

All material to be published in Zero Beat must be in the Editor's hands by the 15th of the month to appear in the next issue of Zero Beat.

Show and Tell

Do you remember your first homebrew project? Where did you look for parts? How many turns are required on the coil? Are the plates in my capacitor far enough apart?

Many of us have had these questions at some time in our career and have been surprised at how simple the answer is, particularly if we can see the answer. Some of us, including your editor, have never put a PL-239 connector on a piece of RG8/U and would like to see it done. The November meeting may be the answer. Everyone who has a homebrew piece of equipment, simple or complex, is asked to bring one item to the meeting. During coffee hour, the homebrew items will be displayed by their owners for the benefit of us all.

The owners are asked to identify their pet project with 3" x 5" cards that say what the item is, and who built it - name and call.

Please let the Club president know your opinion on this meeting. If you like the presentation, it will be repeated. If not - well, we tried it.



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CLUB LOGO

The first proposals for a club logo have been submitted and they look good. We are looking for a club logo - see page 6 of the October issue of Zero Beat for details.

General License Course

The Provin Mountain Amateur Repeater Association announces that a course to teach the theory needed to pass the Technician or General exam will be held Monday evenings at the American Red Cross building on Maple Street in Springfield. The course starts Monday, October 22, 1979, but it may be possible for anyone that is interested to catch up if they start a little late. We have been assured that all are welcome. Fees for the course are not known but we suspect they are nominal.

FOR SALE

TRANSMITTER, Gonset GSB-100. CW, SSB, PM, and AM. 80 - 10 meters. With new power transformer and solid state rectifiers. Book included. \$125.

RECEIVER, National NC-2-40 D. 80, 40, 20, and 10 meterbands plus general coverage 490 thru 30,000 mhz. With matching speaker and Select -0- Jec. With book \$125.

40 FOOT TELESCOPING HEAVY DUTY STEEL MAST with 5 overlapping 9 foot sections with pins and 3 guy eyes at top of each section. 2½" O.D. bottom and 1" O.D. top section. Good condition, used only on a few field days. \$70.

For further information please contact: Bob Stevens, W1MM at telephone number 532-6020.

Support ham radio.... Have a ham for dinner.

K1ZJH/Rpt

K1ZJH is back on the hill and doing a fb job - Our thanks to John K1ZJH, and all those who assisted him in making the MTARA machine better for all of us. It has been tightened up and many of our rigs are off frequency causing distorted transmissions. A frequency counter will be available at the next Hampden County Radio Association if you want to check your rig.

Please remember that this repeater is open to all but supported by the MTARA - if you are a regular user of this repeater, your membership in the MTARA would be appreciated. Please contact W1CTQ, Phil, or W1LBF, Heather, for info on membership in the MTARA.

PERSONALS

Personal ads placed in Zero Beat work. A follow up on an ad placed in last month's Zero Beat tells us that Joe, W1EMB had two responses to his ad resulting in a cash sale.

Your ad can be inserted at no charge if you are a member.

NOTICE

Route 91 call boxes are out of order and are expected to be out of order for a year. If you see a stranded motorist, please stop and call for the STATE POLICE since the call boxes do not indicate that they are not working. Please tell the person you assist that you are an amateur radio operator.

from The Hartford Courant,
October 10, 1979...

Windsor Mayor Praises 'Hams'

WINDSOR — Mayor Warren P. Johnson Monday commended the nearly 50 ham radio operators who have volunteered their services here since last Wednesday's tornado and also encouraged their employers to allow them to stay here for a few more days.

Johnson, in a letter to Civil Preparedness Director Leroy Coburn, said the ham radio operators who have supplied the communications system during the past few days have helped the town enormously. He said the disaster recovery effort couldn't have worked without them.

Some 50 hams from around the state have been working here. They have accompanied town staff members and other volunteers on errands and have kept workers at the command center at the Poquonock Fire House in touch with workers in other parts of the stricken area.

Some hams like Clay Hill of Manchester have worked throughout the entire disaster clean-up.

Johnson, in his letter to Coburn, noted that he realizes the hams all have "regular jobs." He asked that their employers be encouraged to allow them to stay a few days longer to help the town.

Johnson said Monday evening the hams are still needed to accompany various town staff members and keep the communication links open.

Ham radio operators, as part of their licensing, are obligated to spend some time helping in emergency situations.

THE FUTURE WILL BE...

WARC is on! Who knows where it will take amateur radio? One item hotly being debated is the "no-code" ham license. The FCC is in favor of it. The ARRL has fought it tooth and nail. I'm sure it will be reality within two years! The restructuring of ham licenses is sure to include the "no code" novice. They will most likely have voice privileges on 144 or 220 Mhz. What will it all mean to us?

People carry on the traditions of ham radio. W1KK, W1MM, and W1BVR are just a few of the old timers representing the best in our hobby. All the cherished ideals will be unknown by the hordes of new hams. Bad operating procedures and poor on the air conduct will be the rule, not the exception. What we amateurs must do to prevent this is

welcome the newcomers with open arms. It will be for us, the "Old Timers", to show the right way to do things! The HCRA has always been a leader in Western Mass. The club will have to organize to meet this new challenge. These new energies must be funneled towards the best in amateur radio. Can you imagine a ham population of 10 million? How about a club membership of 1,000? It's just around the corner!

K1BE

APATHY

The Eighth Air Force B-29 dropped its' load of bombs on the Ruhr and began its' long journey home. From the Baltic to the Mediterranean, the net came alive. The operators were good, the discipline rigid, and unauthorized transmissions were nil. Feverish activity after the air raid used low grade ciphers requesting medical, fire fighting, and other aid. Speed of transmitting was essential, and the mode, CW.

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) has come and gone. Western Mass Section was par for the course— limited participation. Why do the dictatorships have the operators trained and ready and the democracies can't? Is the volunteer ideal dead? When tornadoes set down its' too late to learn net procedures and how to pass traffic. It makes a big difference to have a tight, well-trained group ready to dig through the mountains of traffic. The repeater groups in the area are organizing disaster preparedness. Take the time to learn how to do it right. First aid training, keeping the batteries charged, the generator gassed, all the little things are important. If your tower blows down do you have a simple wire antenna ready to go? The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in Western Mass needs active participants. Contact Bob Phoenix, WA1DNB, Bill Lowe, W1TM or Bing Leonard, K1IQA.

Jeff, K1BE

N.E. ARRL CONVENTION

The New England ARRL convention was held on September 28-29. It was well worth \$2.00 admission fee, too bad they were charging \$6.50! There was plenty of room in the exhibition hall, probably because there were so few exhibits. We were there with the QSL Bureau and did a land-office business all day. Over 100 HCRA members were there and it was a lot of fun to see each other. K1YQQ and his Brown Baggers had one heck of a hospitality room. A large group at the Japanese restaurant had a great meal. The ARRL forum with John Sullivan gave a nice award to Eleanore Gray for her fine services as the QSL Bureau manager.

P.S. So many members feel "ripped off" by the N.E. conventions that once again there is talk of hosting the convention ourselves! The board is checking it out. Interested? We need to know just how much help we could really expect. Contact WB1EMN or K1ZQB.

TIDBITS

AC1T has a new tower up! John's Dad, Bill, Ted, and Frank were a big help in putting it up...K1IJU, IJV have a new FT-101ZD...W1JP, WB1-ABF have a new rotor...WA1RWU a new 2 meter rig...Eleanore Gray was presented a nice award by John Sullivan and the hams of New England for her services as QSL Bureau Manager. FB, Eleanore!...WA1VAH put up a new tower this summer. ...W1QWJ getting married soon. Congratulations Dick, from all your friends in the club!...K1WB lost his beam in the recent tornado, glad the family and home were not hurt...Many club members helped out during the recent tornado, WA1ZEV and KA1AVJ were two Connecticut members who were right in the thick of it. The MTARA repeater did yeoman duty with W1GUG as NCS. FB on a job well done by all involved...WB1BZW has his new tower up. How do you like the new kitchen, Pat?...

Hampden County Radio Association
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